



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TWO FORMER BOOKKEEPERS INDICTED IN SCHEME THAT RESULTED IN \$2.4
MILLION LOSS TO LOCAL FLORIST**

U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today the indictment of Kathy L. Byers and Sherry Gomez on charges of Conspiracy and Possession of Forged Securities.

According to the indictment, beginning in September 1998 and continuing through December 2003, \$2.4 million dollars in forged checks drawn on accounts of Travis Wholesale Florists were negotiated by the indicted defendants and other individuals. The defendants and other individuals were bookkeeper employees of Travis Wholesale Florists located in San Antonio, Texas, at various times during the alleged conspiracy. Byers, Gomez and others possessed and fraudulently negotiated forged checks. Byers negotiated at least 458 forged checks herself totaling approximately \$964,306.09 and Gomez negotiated at least 175 forged checks herself in the approximate amount of \$430,213.67.

Byers is charged with conspiracy to possess forged securities and three substantive counts of possessing forged securities. Gomez is charged with a conspiracy count and two substantive counts of possessing forged securities. If convicted on all four counts, Byers faces up to 35 years in federal prison. Gomez faces up to 25 years in prison for the three counts with which she is charged.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Tom Moore is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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